

Zhejiang Province & State of Illinois Sister School Initiative

Goal – Facilitate partnerships between Illinois schools and those in the Province of Zhejiang, China for the purposes of promoting cultural and linguistic appreciation as well as global citizenship.

General Information for IL Schools

- One or more classes from a school may participate.
- Classes can be of any grade level from elementary through high school.
 - Best efforts will be made to find a class of a similar age group.
- Classes may offer Mandarin but are not required to do so in order to participate.
- Interested classes should register at <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Pages/sister-school-registration.aspx>
 - Form includes a space for comments and/or questions.
- There is flexibility for schools around the types of collaboration and creativity is encouraged.
- All Illinois schools are eligible for participation including public, charter, private, parochial and selective enrollment.
- Initial contact with partner school will likely be made via email given the time difference.
- After initial contact has been made, coordination of collaborations will be the responsibility of individual schools.

Potential Forms of Collaborations

- Shared lesson plans – Classes work on the same lesson or unit simultaneously.
 - Shared lesson plans can be done in conjunction with another form of collaboration such as those listed below and could include the sharing of materials and other educational resources.
 - Lesson plans can be academic in nature (ie lesson plan about the seasons, natural disasters, a book/story, sports, etc.) or more culturally oriented (ie holidays, customs, food, language, etc.)
- Class blog/webpage – Classes interact virtually and share updates regularly with one another via a shared blog or webpage.
- Email “pen pal” exchange – Classes assign students a partner with whom to exchange emails.
- Student exchanges – Schools may make arrangements for student exchanges based on interest and capacity to support travel and coordination of related activities.
- Faculty & staff exchanges - Schools may make arrangements for faculty and staff exchanges based on interest and capacity to support travel and coordination of related activities.
- Creativity is encouraged! We are open to hearing additional suggestions for ways to engage.

Tentative Timeline

November 4, 2011 – Post registration form online

December 2, 2011 – Review web registrants for follow up.

December 5 – 19, 2011 – Follow up with registrants and begin identifying potential matches.

January 2012 – Schools are provided one another's contact information and connected via email. Schools are free to begin collaboration with continued support from the Governor's Office as needed.